UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,646	08/21/2003	Quentin J. Clark	MSFT-2734/305604.01	9792

41505	7590	03/09/2005	

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EXAMINER
CORRIELUS, JEAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2162	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _21 August 2003_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-19_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-19_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This office action is in response to the application filed on August 21, 2003, in which

claims 1-19 are presenting for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed on Feb 12, 2004 complies with the

provisions of M.P.E.P. 609. It has been placed in the application file. The information referred

therein has been considered as to the merit.

Drawings

3.   Applicants are required to furnish the formal drawings in response this office action. No

new matter may be introduced in the required drawing. Failure to timely submit a drawing will

result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5.   Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kumar et al.,

(hereinafter "Kumar") US Patent No. 6,343,287

As to claim 1, Kumar discloses the claimed "a database engine"(online data service, an internet search engine or database management software, See Kumar's col.11, lines 1-9); "a data store implemented on the database engine for storing data therein (col.3, lines 40-56; col.5, lines 10-30; col.7, lines 11-18), wherein the data store implements a data model that supports the organization, searching, sharing, synchronization, and security of data stored in the data store and wherein specific types of data are described in schemas" (col.6, lines 60-67; col.18, lines 18-29); and "an application programming interface that enables application programs to access services and capabilities of the storage platform (col.7, lines 12-18) and to access the data described in the schemas" (col.18, lines 18-30; col.2, lines 7-24; col.7, lines 12-18), "wherein the storage platform (col.7, lines 12-18) further supports interoperability with existing file systems (col.2, lines 7-24; col.2, lines 25-35), enables users and systems to synchronize data stored in different instances of the data store, and provides the ability for application programs to be notified about and to track changes made to the data in the data store" (col.4, lines 34-40).

As to claim 2, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein data in the data store is defined in terms of items, elements (col.3, lines 40-56; col.5, lines 10-30; col.7, lines 11-18), and relationships (link), wherein an item is a unit of data storable in the data store and comprises one or more elements, an element is an instance of a type comprising one or more fields, and a relationship is a link between at least two items" (col.11, lines 10-18; col.14, lines 43-57; col.15, lines 33-40).

As to claim 3, Kumar discloses the claimed "a set of schemas that define different types of items, elements, and relationships, and wherein the application programming interface comprises a class for each of the different items, elements, and relationships defined in the set of schemas" (col.18, lines 18-29; col.20, lines 60-67).

As to claim 4, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein data may also be stored in the data store in the form of an extension to an existing item type, and wherein the application programming interface comprises a class for each different item extension" (col.2, lines 25-35; col.5, lines 5-7).

As to claim 5, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein the class for each type of item, element, and relationship is generated automatically based on the set of schemas that define each type of item, element, and relationship" (fig.7A).

As to claim 6, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein the classes for each type of item, element, and relationship define a set of data classes, and wherein the application programming interface further comprises a second set of classes that define a common set of behaviors for the data classes" (col.15, lines 20-43).

As to claim 7, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein the second set of classes comprise a first class that represents a storage platform scope and that provides the context for queries on the data store and a second class the represents the results of a query on the data store" (col.15, lines 20-43; and col.16, lines 8-30).

As to claim 8, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein the different types of items, elements, and relationships in the data store are implemented in the database engine as user-defined types (UDT)" (col.15, lines 20-43; col.14, lines 43-55; col.13, lines 1-20).

As to claim 9, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein the application programming interface provides a query model that enables application programmers to form queries based on various properties of the items in the data store, in a manner that insulates the application programmer from the details of the query language of the database engine" (col.16, lines 8-58).

As to claim 10, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein a plurality of items in the data store may comprise an item Folder and at least one other item that is a member of the item Folder" (col.3, lines 40-57).

As to claim 11, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein a plurality of items in the data store may comprise a Category and at least one other item that is a member of said Category" (col.13, lines 46-62).

As to claim 12, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein a relationship between two items is established automatically by a hardware/software interface system" (col.9, lines 63-67).

As to claim 13, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein an element is understandable by a hardware/software interface system" (col.9, line 63-col.10, line 5).

As to claim 14, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein a relationship comprises an element" (col.11, lines 10-15; col.20, lines 60-67).

As to claim 15, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein said set of schemas comprises a Core Schema that defines a set of Core Items by which the storage platform understands and directly processes said set of Core items in a predetermined and predictable way" (col.11, line 66-col.12, line 11; col.12, lines 55-67).

As to claim 16, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein each type of item defined in the set of Core items is derived from a single common base item" (col.15, lines 30-43).

As to claim 17, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein said single common base item is a foundational item in a base schema" (col.15, lines 30-43).

As to claim 18, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein said database engine comprises a relational database engine" (col.11, lines 3-8; col.12, lines 45-50).
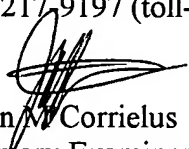
As to claim 19, Kumar discloses the claimed "wherein said relational database engine comprises

a relational database engine with object relational extensions" (col.11, lines 3-8; col.12, lines 45-

50).

Conclusion

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Jean M Corrielus whose telephone number is (571) 272-4032.

The examiner can normally be reached on 10 hours shift.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jean M Corrielus
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2162

March 5, 2005